there even before the Law came into force. Similar reservation have also been given by some State Governments. In addition, the handicapped are also given age concessions in the upper age limit and relaxation in the medical standards for entry into Government jobs.

(ii) 47 Special Employment Exchange and 41 Special Cells in the handicapped persons have been set up exclusively to help the handicapped in getting gainful employment. Besides, the Normal Employment Exchanges also help the handicapped persons in finding suitable employment.

(iii) Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the disabled arrange them training and place them in employment.

(iv) Self employment is promoted through the following :

(a) Allotment of vending stalls, kiosks and shops by some State Governments/UTs.

(b) Loans from Nationalised Banks at concessional Rates of Interest.

(c) Preference in allotment of Public Telephone Booths;

(d) Reservation in distribution of Petrol Pumps, Kerosence Depots etc.

(7) Scheme of Assistance to disabled for purchase/fitting of aids/appliances

The main objective of the scheme is to assist needy physically handicapped persons in procurnng durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured aids and appliances that promote their physically, social and psychological rehabilitation. The scheme is implemented through centres run by the companies, registered under Companies Act, registered Societies, trusts or any other institutions recognised by the Ministry of Welfare. Both governmental and non-governmental agnecies are thus engaged for the implementation of the scheme.

Under the scheme aids and appliances upto value of Rs. 3600/- are distributed to the disabled persons free of cost if their monthly income is upto Rs. 1200/- and at 50% of the cost if the income is between Rs. 1201/- to Rs. 2500/-

(8) Government of India have recently enacted "The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995". The Act provides prevention and early detection of disabilities, education, employment non-discrimination etc. for disabled persons including mentally retarded persons.

(9) National Handicapped Finance & Development Corpn. is being set up to provide an additional channel of finance at concessional rates to enable the handicapped persons to take up self-employment project.

Foreigners' Visit

2562. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreigners, who visited India during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the number of Pakistanis out of them during the said period;

(c) the number of foreigners especially from the Pakistan who visited Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) the number of foreigners who overstayed in Jammu and Kashmir along with their nationality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) During the years 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996 (upto August), 1678648, 1895486, 2141446 and 1442737 foreigners respectively visited India.

(b) Out of them, 54194, 44039, 34769 and 32547 Pakistanis visited India during the same period.

(c) and (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Seizure of Articles

2563. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Wild Life Conservation Department seized the articles from a package marked woolen items meant for export to London at the Indira Gandhi International Airport on 11.11.96;

(b) if so, whether this was the second seizure within a span of five days;

(c) if so, the details regarding the arrested persons in this regard; and

(d) the procedure adopted by the Government so far as the question of checking etc. is concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). On 11.11.96 the Northern Region, Wildlife Preservation Office under this Ministry detected 12 shahtoosh shawls in a consignment of woollen articles destined for London at the Indira Gandhi International Airport. The shawls were seized by the customs authorities under the Customs Act. This

was followed by another seizure of 5 shahtoosh shawls from a shop in Dilli Haat near INA market on 18.11.96. The seized property was produced before the Court on 20.11.96.

(c) So far no person has been arrested in these cases. Wool fibres have been collected from the seized shawls and sent to the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun for forensic examination.

(d) The measures taken to control smuggling of wildlife and their parts and products are given in the Statement.

STATEMENT

The measures taken to control smuggling of wildlife and their parts and products are :

(i) Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, has been banned by law.

(ii) Special measures for protection and conservation of tiger, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.

(iii) A network of 441 wildlife sanctuaries and 80 National Parks covering 1,48,000 sq. km. has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of national parks and sanctuaries on request from the State Governments.

(iv) This Ministry has set up a National Coordination Committee consisting of representative of all major enforcement organisations such as : Customs, Revenue intelligence, CBI, Police, BSF, ITBP, RPF and foreign Post Office, Traffic-India and Wildlife authorities to enable effective inter-departmental cooperation and coordination to deal with the problem of illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

(v) Training programmes on enforcement and implementation of wildlife and other related laws and international conventions have been organised for all the enforcement agencies in February and November, 1995 and 1996.

(vi) Raids are carried out by the wildlife authorities, in cooperation with other enforcement agencies if necessary whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife is received.

(vii) India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) under which international trade in endangered species and their parts and derivatives is strictly regulated.

(viii) Rewards are given to informers for gathering intelligence regarding illegal trade and smuggling of wildlife products.

(ix) A Committee set up by this Ministry to look into issues related to illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products has recommended specific measures to deal with this problem and these are being followed up with the States for implementation.

(x) Regional and Sub-regional offices of Wildlife Preservation have been set-up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent illegal trade and smuggling of wildlife products.

Liberalisation Schemes

2564 SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
SHRI ANIL BASU :
DR. ASIM BALA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the economic liberalisation programme is having some overbearing influence over the Project Tiger Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to salvage the project while taking deisions under the liberalisation schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (c). It is not a fact that the economic liberalisation policy of the Government is having over-bearing influence over the Project Tiger Programme. Each proposal, received for developmental activities in an around Tiger Reserves, is thoroughly scrutinised by the Ministry under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Any violation of these Acts is dealt within accordance with the provisions of Law.

(b) Does not arise.

National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation

2565 SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allotted to National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSCFDC) for the year 1995-96;

(b) the funds allotted to the State of Kerala for 1995-96 and the funds utilised out of the same; and

(c) the fund utilised in 1993-94 in the State of Kerala for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes?